Floor price for Rubber

2356. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have not declared floor price for rubber, so far; and

(b) if so, what are the effective measures Government intend to take *to save* the poor rubber growers of the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Since the price of rubber is determined by market forces of demand and supply, fixation of floor price of rubber has not been considered necessary.

To ensure a remunerative price to rubber producers, Government of India through STC has made market intervention to procure Natural Rubber on Government account. The STC has already procured 40,217 MT of Natural Rubber till date and the procurement is continuing. To enhance the consumption of indigenous rubber Government has also imposed a ban on import of Natural Rubber under the Advance Licence Scheme w.e.f. 20.2.1999.

Production of Salt in Surendranagar Constituency

2357. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether salt is produced in constituency of Surendranagar, particularly Taluka Dasada, Patri and Dhangadra;

(b) whether the Government are exporting the salt to foreign countries;

(c) whether wages of the labour class have been increased accordingly;

(d) if so, how much;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the other incentives being given to labour class?